

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB RILEY

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Governor Riley Thanks President Bush for Quick Response on Federal Disaster Declaration

MONTGOMERY— Governor Bob Riley thanked President Bush on Tuesday for granting the state's request for a federal disaster declaration for six counties following last week's deadly tornadoes and storms. Governor Riley and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency were informed this morning that federal disaster aid is being made available to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by severe storms and tornadoes on March 1.

"We are committed to providing citizens in the storm-ravaged areas all the help they need," said Governor Riley. "On behalf of all Alabamians, I thank President Bush for his quick response to this tragedy. The President's actions will help these communities recover more quickly."

Individuals in the following counties will be able to apply for federal disaster assistance: Coffee, Dale, Dallas, Henry, Montgomery and Wilcox.

Individual assistance, to be coordinated by FEMA, can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Public assistance to help with debris removal; rebuilding and repairing public buildings, roads and bridges; and emergency protective measures has been approved for Coffee County, Henry County and Wilcox County.

Individuals can call 1-800-621-FEMA to begin applying for assistance, or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired.

FEMA is holding an applicants briefing on Wednesday, March 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the Wilcox County Courthouse Annex, 12 Water Street, in Camden. Additional briefings will be scheduled at a later time.

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For more information, contact the Governor's Press Office at 334-242-7150.